

VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE WORLD



**AOR**

ARCTIC OCEAN REVIEW  
PROJECT  
2009 - 2013

**VISION:** A healthy and productive Arctic Ocean and coasts that support environmental, economic and socio-cultural values for current and future generations.

## Overview

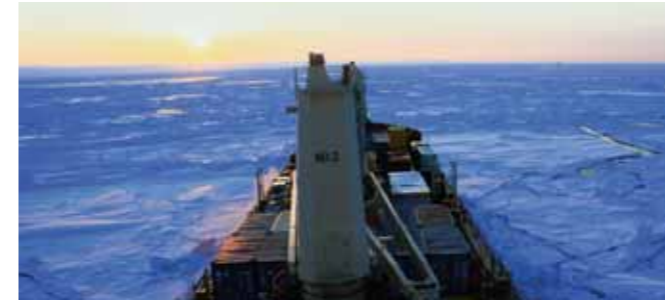
The Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) is a multi-phased project that will result in a review of the global and regional measures that are in place for the protection of the Arctic marine and coastal environment, and options to address any gaps or weaknesses. This project will address both sea and land-based activities influencing the state of the Arctic marine environment, and will result in a phase I report on existing measures (2011) and a final report with recommendations for endorsement by the Arctic Council Ministers (2013).

## The Scope

The AOR project was agreed by the Arctic Council at its 2009 Ministerial Meeting, as a follow-up to The 2004 Arctic Marine Strategic Plan which states that the Council shall:

*„Periodically review the status and adequacy of international/regional agreements and standards that have application in the Arctic marine environment, new scientific knowledge of emerging substances of concern, and analyze the applicability of a regional seas agreement to the Arctic“.*

The AOR is especially timely given the climatic, environmental and socio-economic changes occurring in the Arctic which can result in increased pressures on the marine and coastal environments. This Project will not initiate a new assessment, but will be based on existing information and draw from existing documentation. The AOR will produce a report on the global and regional measures in place for the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic Ocean demonstrating the Arctic Council's environmental stewardship. This will require close cooperation with other Arctic Council working groups in addition to inputs from Arctic Council Member States, Permanent Participants, Observers and other experts. An outreach and communication is an important aspect of this work and will be an ongoing effort for the duration of this Project.

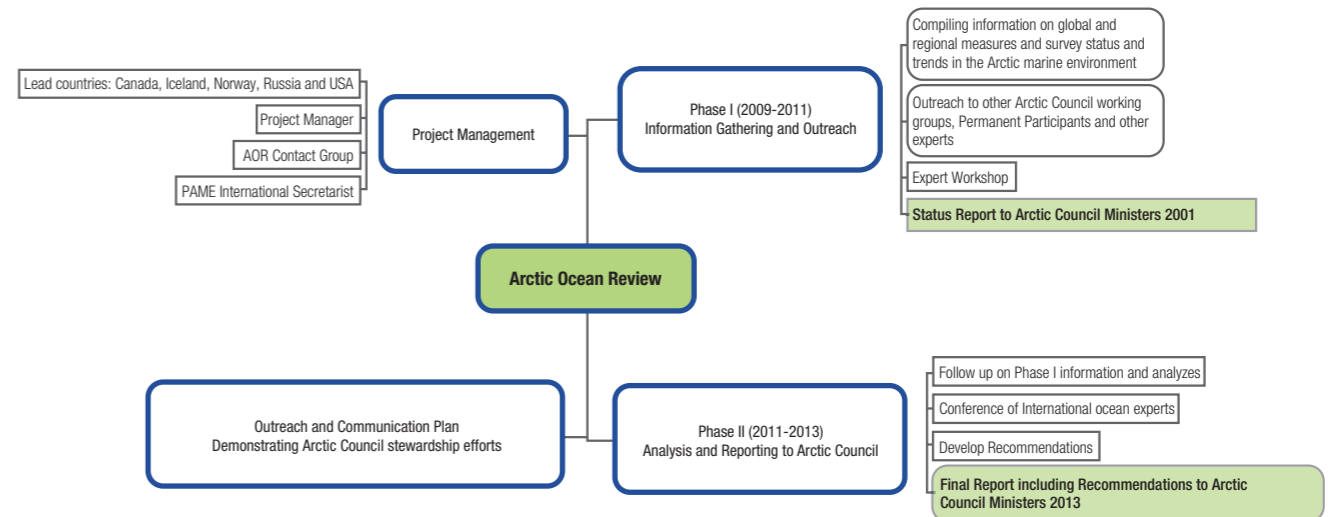


**Reduced sea ice is very likely to increase marine transport and access to resources and may open new shipping routes.**

**The black carbon emitted from shipping in the Arctic could have significant regional impacts by accelerating ice melt.**

## Work Plan

This Project will span over a four-year period (2009-2013) in two Phases and the work plan consists of the following main components:



# The Arctic

Increased economic activity and significant changes due to climatic processes are resulting in increased use, opportunities and threats to the Arctic marine and coastal environments. The Arctic marine environment is extremely vulnerable to projected climate change and its impacts. The Arctic Council is at the forefront of these emerging issues through the development of various in-depth reports and assessments. Because of the work of the Arctic Council, these issues can be better understood and have become higher on the international agenda in recent years. These predicted changes call for a review of global and regional measures taking into account both existing and emerging challenges of the Arctic marine and coastal environments and demonstrating the Arctic Council' stewardship efforts to the global community.

## PAME

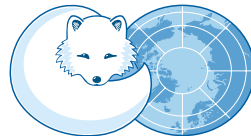
The PAME (Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment) working group is one of the working groups of the Arctic Council and it addresses policy and non-emergency pollution prevention. The long term goal is to develop measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from land and sea-based activities through coordinated action programmes and guidelines complementing existing legal arrangements. Further information on PAME and this assessment can be found at:

# PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

### **PAME International Secretariat**

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ARCTIC COUNCIL